



Garden Creek School PSSC Meeting

November 22, 2016

Attending

Mary Ellen Vaughan, Al Lynch, Sophia Petrovich, Jackie Saunders, Tim Yerxa, Jacqueline Fortner, Katina Roberts, Stephanie Haslam, Mark Taylor, Jodi Parker, and Katherine Campbell. Regrets: Jane Matthews-Clark, Michelle Peach, and Jason Addison.

Also attending: Dr. Joseph Cairns

Business Arising from Minutes

1. April 2016 minutes were approved by Mark, seconded by Al.

New Business

1. Dr. Cairns spoke on the Fluoride Mouth Rinse Program. In favour of the program are the following arguments:
 - a. No fluoride supplements are in the Fredericton city water.
 - b. Cavities are on the rise in children in Fredericton.
 - c. With the rinse as applied at school, there is no systemic absorption of fluoride in the body. The known problem that arises from too much fluoride in the body is fluorosis of the teeth affecting those younger than 5 years old. Concomitantly, to avoid children swallowing the fluoride rinse, starting in grade one is probably a reasonable idea anyway. It is impossible to get too much fluoride topically.
 - d. Rinsing is a better application method than brushing, but the percentage of fluoride in the rinse (.2%) is similar to that of toothpaste (.24% Colgate) though the volume of the rinse must be greater.
 - e. If teeth are lost at an early age, it causes later orthodontic problems. Also, serious oral surgeries are on the rise in children.
 - f. The program is opt-in, so parents who do not wish to have their children in the program will not be disturbed.

Information is available on the provincial website at

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/services/services_renderer.201235.Fluoride_Mouthrinse_Program.html, and Dr. Cairns said he would be happy to be contacted by parents who have further questions.

The PSSC considers this to be a good wellness initiative and a public health issue, particularly important for children who aren't getting effective tooth care. Since we are in favour of going ahead with the program, the next steps are:

- a. Al will contact the province to see when they're ready to begin distributing the concentrated fluoride.
 - b. We organize a parent volunteer group to mix and distribute the fluoride.
 - c. We send out a notification/permission letter, containing the information on the government website, by email and in the grade 1-5 students' communication bags.
2. Feedback on the Parent Perception Survey was provided by Jackie:
 - a. An old survey was updated with input from Katherine and the teachers, and a new survey with 15 questions was generated.
 - b. Ideally one survey per child will be filled in by parents. To ensure this, parents will receive an email with links to the survey directly from each of their children's teachers. The email will emphasize that:
 - i. each child should have a separate survey filled in
 - ii. it is important for parents to fill in the comment section

- iii. the survey will be anonymous with only grade and gender questions to identify cohorts.
 - c. Discussed edits will be made and a test will be sent to the PSSC.
3. Gogo Gymnastics has requested to use a classroom at GC for their afterschool program. Aside from the possible, but questionable, convenience to parents with children in the Gogo program, all comments were objections:
 - a. Gogo has held their program at GC before, and there were behaviour issues and distractions for classes still in session.
 - b. They would need a teacher to give up their classroom immediately after dismissal.
 - c. By removing GC students from the school after school hours, after school programs indicate that it is playtime, no longer study time.

Report from Principal

1. Please refer to the online What's Happening at the Creek handout for details of events and activities.
2. The provincial assessment results were released and are available on the department's website http://www1.gnb.ca/0000/results/ASD-W/gardencreek_assessment.asp. GC grade 2 literacy results remained at 91%. The grade 6 results across the province are alarming. We need to know where the system is failing and would like to know what how former GC students are scoring. Is French immersion affecting the scores? Is it a curriculum failure? Is the province considering looking at the grade 4/5 curriculum? Stephanie will take these questions to the DEC.
3. Work is continuing on the School Improvement Plan and Positive Learning and Environment Plan. The current SIP emphasizes Formative Assessment, which means teaching based on individual needs. We will need more volunteers for this.

DEC Report

1. The French Immersion information meeting will be Dec 1st at FHS.
2. Public DEC meetings will be Nov 24th in Woodstock and Dec 8 in Fredericton.

Report from Home and School

1. Jodi reported that the bazaar raised ~\$17,000 this year.

Correspondence

No correspondence this month.

Next Meeting: Jan 24th, 2017